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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
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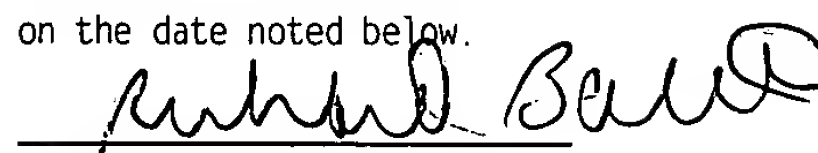


Serial No. : 09/974,511
Applicants : Masahiro KAWAKAMI et al.
Filed : October 10, 2001
For : SMELTING REDUCTION METHOD
Art Unit : 1742
Examiner : Melvyn J. Andrews
Docket No. : 00447CD/HG
Customer No.: 01933
Confirmation No.: 8922

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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1742\$
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Attorney: Richard S. Barth

Dated: April 21, 2004

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

S I R :


Applicants hereby petition for a two-month extension of time for the timely filing of the papers filed concurrently herewith.

Extended time expires **April 25, 2004.**

A check for \$420 is attached to cover the Patent Office fee. If any further fees are required, authorization is given to charge same against Account No. 06-1378.

Respectfully submitted,

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